Administration Reports of the Borstal School, Dharwar, and of the Bombay Presidency Borstal Association

For the Years 1934 to 1938

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Report.

Borstal School, Dharwar, and the Bombay Presidency Borstal Association.

GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

13314

Resolution No. P. 169.

Bombay Castle, 13th July 1935.

Letter from the Inspector General of Prisons, Bombay Presidency, No. 7038, dated the 16th May 1935 - Forwarding *inter alia* a report on the Borstal School, Dharwar, for the year 1934.

Letter from the Backward Class Officer and Secretary and Treasurer, Bombay Presidency Borstal Association, No. B.I. 8, dated the 5th June 1935—Forwarding a report on the working of the Bombay Presidency Borstal Association for the year ending 31st March 1935.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the Inspector General of Prisons' report on the Borstal School and the Backward Class Officer's report on the Borstal Association shall be printed together. It is hoped that this will draw attention more clearly to the close connection that subsists between the school and the association and to the fact that the Borstal system does not confine itself to institutional training but includes a period of trial "in the open". Of the period for which a boy is ordered to be detained in the school only about two-thirds on an average are actually spent in the school; the remainder is spent in the lad's own village, or at a place where he can get work, under the supervision and guidance of a probation officer. The period spent in the school is intended to train him in some trade by which he can earn an honest livelihood on release, to give him an elementary education and to inculcate habits of obedience and discipline. This period varies according to the aptitude of the boy and inversely to the bad habits he had acquired before admission to the school. The period is not prolonged beyond what is sufficient for the objects in view, *even if a longer period of detention had been fixed by the Court.* As soon as a boy has learnt a trade and is fit for discharge the Borstal Association find a probation officer and if possible a job for him, and the boy is released on licence. The period spent on licence tests the extent to which a boy has profited by his instruction in the school; if his reformation is permanently effective then the lad takes his place in society as a normal member thereof, earning an honest livelihood in some useful trade, with none of the attributes, and without the stigma, of a convict; if he fails to justify the hopes that have been placed in him he is returned to the school for a further period of institutional training.

2. It is hoped that in the light of these remarks Magistrates will realise that there is nothing harsh in awarding detention for periods of even four or five years and that three years is the minimum that should be awarded in order to give the system a chance of success both in the school and on licence. If a boy profits early and well by the institutional training he is released early no matter what period of detention was ordered. The advantage of a long period lies in the fact that if a boy proves stubborn or to have deeply ingrained bad habits or to be slow to profit by instruction then there is still time to effect a cure without being compelled to discharge a lad in a half-trained state from which he is likely to relapse into his old bad habits.

3. The Inspector General of Prisons' interesting report, with the photographs reproduced, gives a very clear idea of the nature of the school. In many respects the school is like an ordinary boarding school with its daily routine, games, libraries, house system, monitors, etc. The chief differences are that the members are of a different type and that the school is intended not to add to the army of unemployed "black-coated workers" but to train boys for manual labour, to be skilled artisans or trained agriculturists, with sufficient education to be intelligent citizens. The report covers only the fourth year of the school's existence since its conversion from a jail, yet would do credit to a school with a long tradition behind it. The Inspector General of Prisons and the staff of the school are much to be congratulated on having achieved such excellent results in such a short time and with such small assistance.

4. The Borstal Association, too, has a satisfactory year's work to its credit, but there is urgent need for more co-operation from the public. It will be realised from the remarks above that the essence of After-Care is its non-official character. The first part of Borstal training takes place in a school but the second, and equally important, part takes place in a lad's own locality, in normal surroundings, and the best conditions can only be obtained when local residents are willing to take upon themselves the duties of probation officers or supervisors. The Governor in Council would earnestly appeal to the public at large to help in the formation of after-care societies and to give their voluntary assistance in rehabilitating Borstal-trained boys in society. He also desires that the Backward Class Officer should convey his thanks personally to all those voluntary workers who in the past year have contributed to the success of the Association.

By order of the Governor in Council,

J. C. BOLTON,

Under Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

Home Department.

To

The Registrar, High Court, Appellate Side, Bombay (by letter),
The Clerk of the Crown, High Court, Bombay,
The Inspector General of Prisons, Bombay Presidency,
The Backward Class Officer, Bombay Presidency,
The Commissioner in Sind,
The Commissioner, Northern Division,
The Commissioner, Central Division,
The Commissioner, Southern Division,
The Judicial Commissioner of Sind,
All Sessions Judges,
All District Magistrates,
The Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay,
The Commissioner of Police, Bombay,
The Director of Information,
The Compiler, General Administration Report,
The High Commissioner for India (by letter),
The Government of India, Home Department (by letter),
The Director of Public Information with the Government of India,
The Governor, Borstal School, Dharwar,
The Finance Department.

DHARWAR BORSTAL SCHOOL.

General.—Judging by the number of lads who are now being sent to the school under the Borstal Act, it appears that Magistrates are at last beginning to appreciate the advantages of the training that the young criminal receives there, and the fact that if a lad must be committed to a "Penal Institution" it is preferable that he should be sent to a place where methods of reclamation can be tried, and every means of reformation explored, rather than that he should be sent for some short term to a prison, under the mistaken idea that by doing so the lad is being leniently dealt with. However, it is still evident that the fundamental principle of Borstal treatment is not understood, for instance, in certain cases when a short sentence of imprisonment, awarded by a magistrate, is challenged by this office, it is nothing unusual to receive, in explanation, a statement that, as the crime for which the lad was convicted was of a trifling nature, it was sufficient if the lad on conviction was sent for a short term to a prison, rather than to a Borstal school for a minimum period of two years' detention. This clearly shows that the fundamental principle, viz. that "the criminal and not the crime should be chiefly considered when sentence is being awarded," is not understood. The whole idea is to try to reclaim the lad concerned, and not suitably to punish him for having committed some crime.

2. In most countries it is agreed that the minimum period of detention in a Borstal school should be three years—it is not possible to teach any lad a trade in two years, nor does the award of so short a time leave enough margin for the period of discharge on licence to be sufficiently long to be of any practical service to the lad—for the Borstal System envisages not only a period spent inside an institution, but one spent on discharge on licence, a period preliminary to absolute discharge. During this time a lad is brought into actual contact with the world and all its temptations, with however the guidance and advice of his probation officer always at hand to assist him—during which time he either makes good or has a relapse. This period, which can be likened to one of convalescence from an infectious disease, must be sufficiently long for the patient to be declared cured and in no immediate danger of relapse, and, also sufficiently long for it to be tolerably certain that he is not likely to convey infection to others. So it is clear that the length of detention to be effective must permit of not only sufficient time for the course of intensive institutional treatment, but must allow for a period of convalescence, during which the effect of the treatment can be noted.

3. The school is divided into five "Houses" and a Division for new admissions. It is essential that new arrivals should be kept separate from the older scholars, so that they can settle down to regular work and have an opportunity of being interviewed by the staff and Committee of Visitors. It can easily be understood that on first admission a boy nurses a feeling of resentment against all authority, and that a great deal of individual attention and tact on the part of both staff

and visitors is necessary to overcome this and to obtain his willing co-operation and trust—and that until this can be obtained, he would have a very disturbing effect on the remainder of the boys if allowed to associate freely with them.

4. The year opened with 329 boys. During the year 221 were admitted and 182 discharged. Of these boys, 90 were discharged on Licence, 16 were discharged on completion of their term of detention, 5 were discharged on appeal, 7 were transferred to a jail as "failures," 61 were discharged by orders of Government, 2 escaped, 1 died and 368 remained at the close of 1934.

Of the 90 lads discharged conditionally on Licence 17 broke the conditions of their licence, which had to be revoked, the transgressors being returned to the school. The percentage of relapses works out at 19 per cent.; the other 81 per cent. have, till the date of this report, continued as law abiding citizens—a result, of which I consider the school can be justly proud—especially when one stops to consider that in this Presidency, the Borstal school has been in existence but three short years. These relapses cannot be regarded as "failures" as the boys concerned may still make good when given another chance of doing so.

Seven inmates were transferred to jails and must be regarded as "failures". Four of these were removed from the school because of their immorality and the possibility of them contaminating others if allowed to remain. The remaining three were "hard cases" who had several previous terms of imprisonment to their credit, and were of the type who were not likely to improve—they were obstinate and defiant of all authority and as no headway could be made with their reclamation at the school it was decided to transfer them to the special juvenile section at Yeravda Central Prison.

5. The School results show continued progress during the year and as the "System of training" was better understood by both staff and scholars, it was found possible to increase the privileges granted to the boys. As will be explained in the body of the report, these concessions are all links in the chain of the system of character development.

Further structural alterations were undertaken and completed during the year under report—the result being that it would be difficult for a stranger seeing the present school for the first time to realise that the school buildings had formerly been in use as a prison, and that, not so very long ago.

The school is still heavily handicapped by the lack of a sufficient number of teachers and trade instructors to deal with the increasing number of their charges and to give them the individual attention that the Borstal System demands—it is hoped however, that in spite of the "Financial Stringency", it will be possible for Government to allot funds so as to make it possible to entertain a sufficient number of the right type of teachers and instructors who are so necessary for an Institution of this sort.

6. *Buildings.*—(1) Formerly there was a wall four feet thick and sixteen and a half feet high enclosing the dormitories—a relic of the old jail—this was demolished during the year. Its removal has completely altered the appearance of the interior of the school, and has opened up the Quadrangle, the Club and Reading Rooms.

(2) A legacy from the days when the school was a jail was the barred verandah of the Hospital; all bars have been removed and the lads in hospital have an uninterrupted view of the garden and the playing fields. This is a change that has been very greatly appreciated.

(3) Six additional sets of latrines were provided; this was a long felt want.

7. *Training.*—(1) *Educational*—Classes are held in Kanarese, Marathi, Gujrati, Sindhi and Urdu. Three hundred and ten boys attended these classes, and as there are only four Masters, it can easily be understood that the insufficiency of staff is keenly felt. It is impossible for one man to deal with unwieldy numbers—especially when it is remembered that the degree of efficiency, and the progress made by each lad makes several standards in each language a necessity. In spite of this very serious handicap 86 per cent. of the inmates are able to read and write in the vernacular in general use in the part of the Presidency from which they come—though the majority of them, on admission, were illiterate.

In inclement weather the classes are held in the regular class rooms—but whenever possible all classes are conducted in the open air. This is an innovation much appreciated by scholars and masters alike.

Examinations for all lads attending school were held by officers of the Education Department, and their reports on the progress made are very satisfactory. They, however, without exception, comment adversely on the insufficiency of the staff of teachers.

The following officers of the Department of Education visited the school and inspected all departments :—

(1) The Director of Public Instruction.

(2) The Educational Inspector, Southern Division.

(3) The Senior Assistant to the Deputy Educational Inspector, Southern Division.

(4) The Deputy Educational Inspector, Mahomedan Education, Southern Division.

Magic Lantern Lectures.—With the assistance and co-operation of the Director of Public Instruction, I was able to arrange for magic lantern displays to be held in the School Hall—when very interesting pictures were shown, and lectures delivered, by certain gentlemen whose names are given below, and to whom the thanks of this Department are due for the time and trouble expended by them. These lectures were most instructive and were greatly appreciated.

(1) Mr. B. S. Purohit, B.A., Training College for Men.

(2) Mr. N. V. Kardi, B.A., Training College for Men.

(3) Mr. Limaye, B.A., B.T., Government High School.

(4) Mr. V. V. Kamat, B.A., B.T., Government High School.

(5) Mr. Dabir, Deputy Educational Inspector, Mahomedan Education, Southern Division.

(6) Mr. Ullal, Deputy Inspector, Southern Division.

(7) Mr. M. A. Bidikar, B.A., B.T., Government High School.

(8) Mr. Kulkarni, B.A., B.T., Government High School.

Twelve lectures were given during the course of the last six months of the year under report. I consider that the school should be provided with its own magic lantern; suitable slides of educative value could always be obtained on loan through the local educational authorities whom I have always found very willing to help. In addition to a magic lantern of its own, I consider that the school should have an epidiascope. The advantages of visual instruction are often lost sight of—especially when dealing with lads of the type found in institutions such as the one under report—lads whose education has been neglected, or whose mental development is backward. It is in cases of this sort that all modern methods of imparting knowledge should be taken advantage of. The initial cost of outlay would be more than compensated for by results.

(2) *Industrial*—(*a*) *Carpentry.*—As in previous years carpentry in all its branches remains the principal industry taught in the school, and one for which a qualified instructor has been provided.

During the year under report great improvements have been made in this section and the work taught, and turned out, is of better quality than in previous years. The institution does not claim to turn out expert craftsmen but it does endeavour to teach each boy the essentials of the trade, so that, when he leaves the school he will have a practical working knowledge of his craft and will be able to earn a living and find honourable employment. Some of the lads have shown special aptitude for carpentry and made so much progress that they could easily command really good wages anywhere in the labour market.

(*b*) *Weaving.*—The weaving department has been expanded and during the course of the year the boys have made two more looms which were taken into use. Cotton cloth worth Rs. 315 was woven during the year. In future the school will weave most of its requirements of cloth for clothing.

This is a branch of industry where a qualified instructor is a necessity—unfortunately the school has not got one. Last year specially selected convict officers were sent to the school as instructors, but these were retransferred as soon as ever their services were not required and when there was a sufficient number of lads trained to carry on with the weaving, and train their fellows.

(*c*) *Tailoring.*—As reported last year the school still lacks an instructor in tailoring. As the lads will in future be weaving all their requirements of cloth for clothing, the provision of a tailor master must be regarded

as a necessity. Tailoring is one of the most useful trades that can be taught a lad—for, on discharge he can always find a means of livelihood by following it, and its great advantage is that capital is not necessary for a beginning to be made.

(*d*) *Smithy.*—The school has a small blacksmith's shop where the rudiments of this trade and tinsmith's work are taught the lads by the carpenter instructor. This is unsatisfactory, a regular whole time instructor who is fully qualified is essential.

(*e*) *Gardening.*—Here the school is more fortunate, and has a Bachelor of Agriculture, assisted by a trained "mali", as instructors. Both flower and vegetable gardening are taught. One of the gardens has been divided into "Allotments" between the Houses—each House "Allotment" being again sub-divided between the boys of that House. The lads are permitted, within reason, to decide for themselves what they will grow in their allotments, a prize being awarded for the best individual garden and the best House Garden. I am very pleased to report that the experiment has proved a great success—the lads have been keenly interested, and the spirit of emulation engendered, has had far reaching effects both on the quality and amount of produce grown. All vegetables grown are supplied to the School.

The school entered for the local Flower Show and obtained the following awards :—

1st class for vegetables.

1st class for hibiscus.

2nd class for cannas.

2nd class for roses.

The school garden produced 59,304 lbs. of vegetables, valued at Rs. 2,572-11-7, and condiments valued at Rs. 160-8-1. In addition to this, tamarind, jowari, gram and toor dhall, valued at Rs. 145-10-7, was obtained from the garden and issued as required for the daily diet, the total value of garden produce being Rs. 2,878-14-3.

Besides lectures and practical demonstrations given in the school gardens, batches of boys are taken to the Government Experimental Farm and to private gardens in the neighbourhood of the school, where it is possible to show the lads crops and vegetables that are not grown in the school gardens—thereby enlarging their experience of practical gardening.

The water difficulty at Dharwar is a chronic complaint and until power pumps are provided for the deep wells, this unsatisfactory state of affairs will continue. Lads are engaged on drawing water when they should be more profitably employed learning a trade; the present unsatisfactory position has been brought to the notice of Government. In this connection I should like to record a very sporting offer made by a local company—to install an electric pump free of charge; the offer is, I understand, being considered by Government.

The wells are very deep, and there is, more often than not, a water shortage. Having had to work under these disadvantages, I consider the school deserves great credit for the results achieved.

All alterations to the school buildings undertaken and completed during 1933, which were referred to in my previous report, were satisfactorily completed by the lads themselves and were an excellent means of training the inmates in useful trades such as that of a stone mason, a brick layer, a tile turner, an ordinary mason, etc. This question has been referred to Government for further consideration and I trust the school will be able to continue one of its most useful forms of "vocational training".

(3) *Physical.*—In addition to the development of the mind, there are facilities for the development of the body, and regular exercises and games find a place in the school's curriculum.

The school day opens with drill and physical exercises. All boys, unless excused on medical grounds, must take part in these. In addition to the ordinary foot and Sweedish drill, exercises on the parallel and horizontal bars, or with dumbells and Indian clubs are taught, these latter being innovations during the last year. It is little short of miraculous how a boy who before admission was probably half-starved, and of poor physique, develops with properly graded exercise, regular meals and hours into a fine sturdy, upstanding lad. When it is remembered that the school starts with scholars who on the average are very poor both physically and mentally, it is really very pleasing to see what excellent results the training gives.

The school gymnasium continues to be well-attended. The parallel and horizontal bars, the wrestling pit and the "malkham pole" being specially popular.

Boys who have qualified for the privilege are permitted to play outdoor games such as cricket, hockey and football and also several Indian games like Atia-Patia, Hu-tu-tu, etc.

The school played several outside teams during the course of the year and were victorious in all matches except one—a very creditable record. I again desire to record my appreciation of, and thanks for, the kindness shown the school and the lads by certain gentlemen who have kindly made the playing of these matches possible.

When matches of special interest are played in the town, a certain number of lads are always taken to witness them.

Games foster the team spirit and help in the elimination of selfishness amongst the lads; and, in games like hockey and football where a knock or fall is not uncommon, they help in teaching temper control, a most essential part in the lads training.

(4) *Scouts.*—The school has a Troop of Scouts which was registered during the year. The troop works under one of the masters, Mr. Dhavale, who is a trained Scout Master. It is hoped to further extend the Scout movement during the next year.

The school troop took part in the Scout Rally held at Hubli when His Excellency the Governor of Bombay visited that town. Their turn out was smart and the boys showed up very well. During the whole of their visit their behaviour was excellent. Permitting the boys to attend functions in another town had not previously been tried, and it is gratifying to realise that the training has been so successful that it was possible to send a whole troop of boys out with only one master to look after them.

The school was greatly assisted in organising the School Troop by Mr. Neelgar, Scout Organiser of the District, and I take this opportunity of thanking him for all his assistance and advice.

Route Marches.—Batches, of sixty boys at a time, are periodically taken for route marches, they are accompanied by one of the House Masters and a Senior Supervisor.

For these and other occasions when the boys are away from the school, they are provided with khaki uniforms. Towards the provision of these uniforms the Bombay Presidency Borstal Association very generously contributed a sum of Rs. 150.

Camps.—For the first time in the history of the school the experiment of taking a few selected boys into camp was tried. On the first occasion fifteen well-behaved boys were chosen for the test. Accompanied by the Deputy Governor, they marched to the selected camping ground—there, they erected shelters, and cooked their own meals. The camp lasted two days—during this period they were given lessons in "Nature Study", "Scout Craft" etc., and were allowed to play games or amuse themselves by reading or story-telling.

The experiment proved entirely successful—every boy, without exception, "played the game," and showed that he could keep his word of honour, the giving of which, was one of the conditions precedent to his being taken on the test.

Several other camps have since been equally successfully tried and periodical camps are now looked on as part of the school routine. A boys "School Committee" has been formed, this committee makes recommendations to the Governor, submitting the names of their fellows, who, in their opinion, have by their general behaviour and progress qualified for the privilege of attending these camps. With the Governor of the school, of course, rests the final selection.

As referred to previously all these special concessions form links in the chain of character development—The boy is taught to be self-reliant, honest and dependable. He learns to realise the value of good honest work and good behaviour.

These camps have been visited by several gentlemen who have been kind enough to give the boys interesting talks on various subjects—or have entertained them with music. A gramophone is a great asset on these occasions, and if funds permit, the school may yet possess one of its own next year.

8. *Diet.*—I was not satisfied that the scale of diet allowed was sufficient—especially so, since the old juvenile jail had been converted into the Borstal school with its new curriculum and intensive training. The inmates are all growing lads and are kept busy from "Rouse" to "Lights out"—either at work or at games. I therefore had careful investigations made—the result being that an entirely new dietary has now been sanctioned by Government—By this, the lads will get a ration of an increased calorific value, and so will be able to get one more meal a day than they did formerly.

All the inmates will get the same scale of ration—no difference will be made between the boys in the various junior grades and the monitors, as was the case formerly.

This increase, in the scale of rations sanctioned, will result in an additional expenditure of Rs. 3,000 approximately per year—an expenditure, which I am sure, every one will agree, is justifiable. The average cost per boy works out at Rs. 28–14–2.

9. *Library.*—At the commencement of the year under report the school library had 655 books—186 Kanarese, 112 Marathi, 64 Gujrathi, 74 Sindhi, 203 Urdu and 16 English—all of general interest and educative value. In addition to the books purchased during the year, several donations were received as a result of the appeal I issued in my last report and, I desire to record my thanks to the undermentioned for the books so kindly presented.

Mrs. Inglis (Poona)	.. 6 books.
Kewalaram Dayaram Esquire, Karachi	.. 36 do.
Professor Trivedi, Poona ..	.. 34 do.
The Revd. D. S. Sawarkar, Poona	.. 41 do.
W. Grieve Esquire, I.E.S., Poona	..212 do.
Syed Nurullah Esquire, Dharwar	.. 62 do.

Attached to the library is a reading room where the more studious of the boys spend their spare time. This room is lighted by means of petromax lamps—the school not yet having the advantage of electric light—private study is permitted here as well as casual reading. All boys taking books out of the library are questioned about the book they have read so as to make sure that they have understood what they have read.

The school can never have too many books—I shall be very grateful if generous members of the Public will continue to remember the Borstal School, Dharwar, when they have any books to spare—books with illustrations are specially appreciated. All presentations will be acknowledged.

10. *Escapes.*—In an institution of this sort where special methods of reformation and training are in operation—escapes must be expected, but so long as these are limited in number and do not assume alarming proportions, no special significance need be attached to them.

During the year under report there were six escapes—Three of these took place from parties working in the garden. Escape from here is extremely easy—for the guarding is made as unobtrusive as possible, there is but one supervisor to every 100 boys. The boys who work in these extra-mural parties are boys who have been promoted to the higher grades, where they enjoy greater freedom than those who have not progressed as far. In most cases the escape is attempted as the result of some sudden urge, and is not the result of premeditation. In one of the cases where the attempt to escape was made from the garden, the absconding boy was chased and apprehended by his companions—thus proving that the lads themselves do not approve of this breach of discipline and failure to honour the trust placed in them by their masters.

A special grade boy took advantage of a very heavy downpour of rain to make his way to the railway station, near by. He did not enjoy his freedom long as he was immediately arrested and returned in disgrace to the school.

Another attempt was made, again by a special grade boy, who was sent to collect aloe fibre, a job that he had performed on several previous occasions. This time however, for some inexplicable reason, he decided not to return. His breach of faith brought him little satisfaction as he was arrested within a few hours and brought back to the school.

The escape from inside the school, took place from a dormitory which was in process of repair. Two newly admitted boys took advantage of the negligence of a monitor to get out through a latrine. One of these is still at large, the other was arrested next morning.

11. *Punishments.*—There were 295 cases where punishment was awarded by the Governor. Of these 201 were dealt with by the award of minor punishments—the remainder received major punishments.

The offences for which the punishments were awarded are as under :—

Offences.	Awards. Minor.	Major.
Relating to work	36	12
Relating to prohibited articles	42	29
Assaults	4	9
Other offences	119	44

Corporal Punishment.—The cane was used on 11 occasions as against 23 during the previous year. The offences for which this punishment was awarded were as shown below :—

Four cases of gross immorality.

Two cases of assault on school officers.

One case of attempted escape.

One case of persistent refusal to work.

Two cases of serious indiscipline and refusal to obey orders.

One case of stealing the watch of his House Master.

The cane is very sparingly used and is resorted to only where other methods of correction would not be of much use.

The four cases referred to above were whipped and immediately transferred to a juvenile section of a prison as their continued presence in the school could not be permitted. Whipping in their case was the only punishment possible.

12. *Financial—Cost of maintenance.*—The total cost of maintenance comes to Rs. 42,746 ; the gross cost, per boy, being Rs. 127-15-9. The average number of inmates during the year was 334. After deducting earnings the net cost, per inmate, is Rs. 127.

The details of Maintenance Charges under the several heads are :—

	Rs.
Establishment charges	24,636
Dietary charges	9,647
Hospital charges	503
Clothing and bedding	1,150
Sanitation charges	1,923
Transport charges (Moving boys)	1,402
Miscellaneous Services and Supplies	1,417
Travelling allowance	642
Contingencies	842
Extraordinary charges	584
Total ..	42,746

Factory earnings are as under :—

(1) *Carpentry.*—The gross earnings were Rs. 3,663 mostly as a result of work undertaken for Government Departments ; this is quite good, especially when it is remembered that on admission very few of the lads know even the names and general appearance of any tool used in carpentry, and have never handled one in their lives. As the work done in the school gets to be better known by the public, it is hoped that this factory will be better patronised, thus enabling the boys to gain wider experience.

(2) *Weaving.*—As already reported, this is but a small section, in its infancy, and without a weaving instructor—yet cloth valued at Rs. 315 was manufactured for the use of the school. The expansion of this section is under consideration.

(3) *Building and repairs.*—Boys employed on general repairs and minor works for the school earned Rs. 212. This is a section where very useful trades can be taught, and should be given every encouragement.

(4) *Miscellaneous.*—Under this head are included the output from the blacksmith's shop, the tailoring section, etc., the earnings being Rs. 162.

The total earnings are thus Rs. 4,352.

The net cash earnings—that is the difference between the cash drawn from and paid into the treasury—amounted to Rs. 1,476.

The average earning for the year by each boy was Rs. 4-6-8, the same for each boy, *actually employed* on remunerative work, was Rs. 17-5-10.

(5) *Garden realisations.*—

	Rs.
Value of vegetables supplied to the school kitchen	2,879
Value of vegetables supplied to the Dharwar Sub-Jail	285
Value of vegetables sold for cash	160
Total earnings ..	3,324

13. *Medical.*—The health of the school was very good during the year. The Civil Surgeon, Dharwar, is ex-officio medical officer of the school and, I desire to record my thanks to both officers who occupied this appointment during 1934, for the kindly interest taken by them in the every day life and occupations of the lads, in addition to merely looking after their health.

I regret to record the death of one boy from acute intestinal obstruction. This was the only casualty during the year under report. It is interesting to note that the death rate in the District of Dharwar has been reported as being 33·31 per mille.

There were 179 admissions to hospital during the year. Malaria heads the list of diseases with 61 admissions. There were 81 admissions for "other causes"—mostly minor injuries, received during games. A detailed list of all admissions to hospital is given below :—

Malaria	61
Respiratory diseases	2
Tubercle of the lungs	1
Diarrhœa	6
Hepatic diseases	6
Abscesses	18
Boils and ulcers	4
All other causes	81
Total ..	179

The daily average sick rate is 4·8. As already noted elsewhere in this report the dietary of the school has been revised, the new scale being more liberal than that which obtained formerly.

All the lads lead open air lives, receiving their exercise and meals at regular hours. It is really interesting to observe how their general health responds to this treatment, and how the veriest weed soon develops into a fine manly youngster.

14. *The Dharwar Sub-Jail.*—There is one very serious draw back in connection with the school, it is the fact that it owns a "skeleton in its cupboard" in the form of a sub-jail actually attached to the school wall and situated inside the school's own grounds. I cannot too strongly urge that this defect be removed at the earliest possible moment. Every effort has been made to remove everything savouring of "jail atmosphere" from the school itself, yet, cheek by jowl with the school, we have, by reason of circumstances over which the Prisons Department has no control, a sub-jail—where *prisoners*, both undertrial and convicted, are confined—and for whom the boys of the school had, till very recently, to cook and fetch water. I consider this absolutely wrong and against all the accepted teachings in respect of the treatment of juvenile delinquents.

15. *Visitors.*—In addition to the general meetings of the Visiting Committee, one or other of its members visits the school on an average once a fortnight.

His Excellency the Governor of Bombay inspected the School on the 27th October 1934. A copy of his remarks is attached to the report now submitted.

The Honourable Sir J. W. F. Beaumont, the Chief Justice of Bombay, visited the School on the 1st November 1934.

The Honourable Mr. Justice H. V. Divatia, High Court Judge, Bombay, on the 25th October 1934.

The Surgeon General with the Government of Bombay on the 20th April 1934.

Mr. V. N. Jog, M.L.C.

The Director of Public Health.

Mr. K. S. Vakil, Principal, Teachers' College, Kolhapur.

16. *Staff.*—A study of the staff provided at the Borstal School, Rochester, and that sanctioned for the School at Dharwar will be found to be very illuminating.

The accommodation at Rochester is for 411 boys, that at Dharwar is for 431 boys.

Rochester.		Dharwar.
1 Governor	..	1 Governor.
1 Deputy Governor	..	1 Deputy Governor.
1 Chaplain	..	Nil.

Rochester.		Dharwar.
5 House Masters	..	5 House Masters.
5 Assistant House Masters	..	Nil.
1 Part-time medical officer	..	1 Part-time medical officer.
1 Steward	..	Nil.
6 Clerks	..	3 Clerks.
5 Matrons	..	Nil.
2 Engineers	..	Nil.
1 Chief Officer	..	1 Chief Supervisor.
5 Principal Officers	..	5 Senior Supervisors.
60 Officers	..	16 Supervisors.
25 Temporary men (Night	..	Nil.
patrols, Farm hands,	..	1 Carpenter Instructor.
Inspectors, Stokers, etc.).	..	1 Mali.
	..	1 Sub-Assistant Surgeon.
	..	1 Compounder.
	..	
119 Staff	..	37 Staff.

It will be seen that the staff at the Borstal School, Rochester, is three times the size of that at Dharwar, while the number of inmates to be catered for in both places is practically the same.

I consider that this in itself provides all the proof necessary of the devotion to duty and the excellent manner in which the school staff at Dharwar must have worked to have produced in three years the excellent results that have been recorded.

17. *Photographs.*—I have submitted for publication, if space and funds permit, 14 photographs, illustrating various parts of the school or phases in the average daily life of the lads. These will, I think, convey a far better idea than mere words what the school is like, and what is being done for the lads there.

18. I desire to bring to the notice of Government the names of the following officers :—

Mr. Keshavlal Hiralal—Governor of the School.

Mr. M. G. Joshi—Deputy Governor.

Mr. Annigeri—Agricultural Instructor and Instructor in Gymnastics.

Mr. Dhavle—Marathi Master and Scout Master.

Subedar Ramswamy—Chief Supervisor and Drill Instructor.

E. E. DOYLE,

Lt.-Col. I.M.S.,

Inspector General of Prisons,

Bombay Presidency.

MO-III Bk Jb 9—3

Government House,
Bombay.

I have been immensely interested by my visit to the Borstal School to-day. The orderly arrangement and cleanliness of the buildings, grounds and gardens, and the spirit and the alert and happy appearance of the lads both at work and play, have impressed me very much. The school is evidently developing under the best traditions and providing the best possible environment for the mental, moral and physical training of the lads who are sent there.

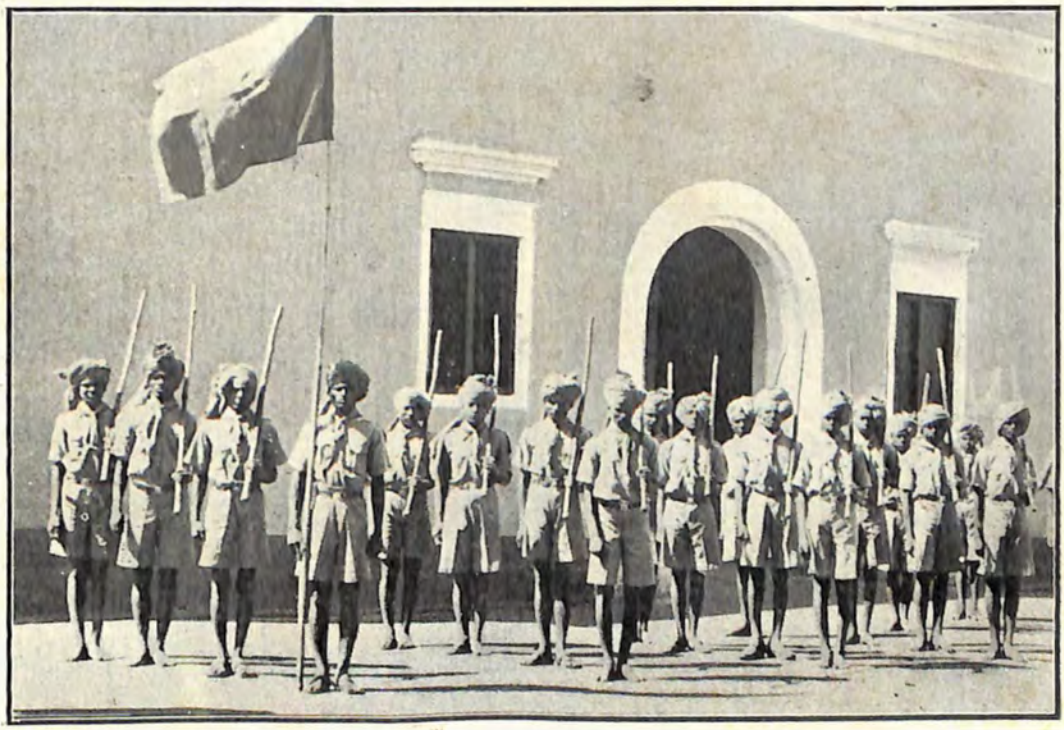
For these results, achieved in little more than three years, great praise is due to Colonel Doyle, who has taken so much personal interest and pride in the School. Much credit is also due to the Governor, Mr. Hiralal, and his staff. I am glad to see that the principle on which they are working is that, whatever the progress already achieved, there is always room for new ideas and that there should be no relaxation of efforts at greater perfection.

I should also like to thank those honorary workers and contributors who have given their help and sympathy to the School. I venture to think that those who are interested in this side of social reform need have no doubt that it is an object worthy of their fullest practical support.

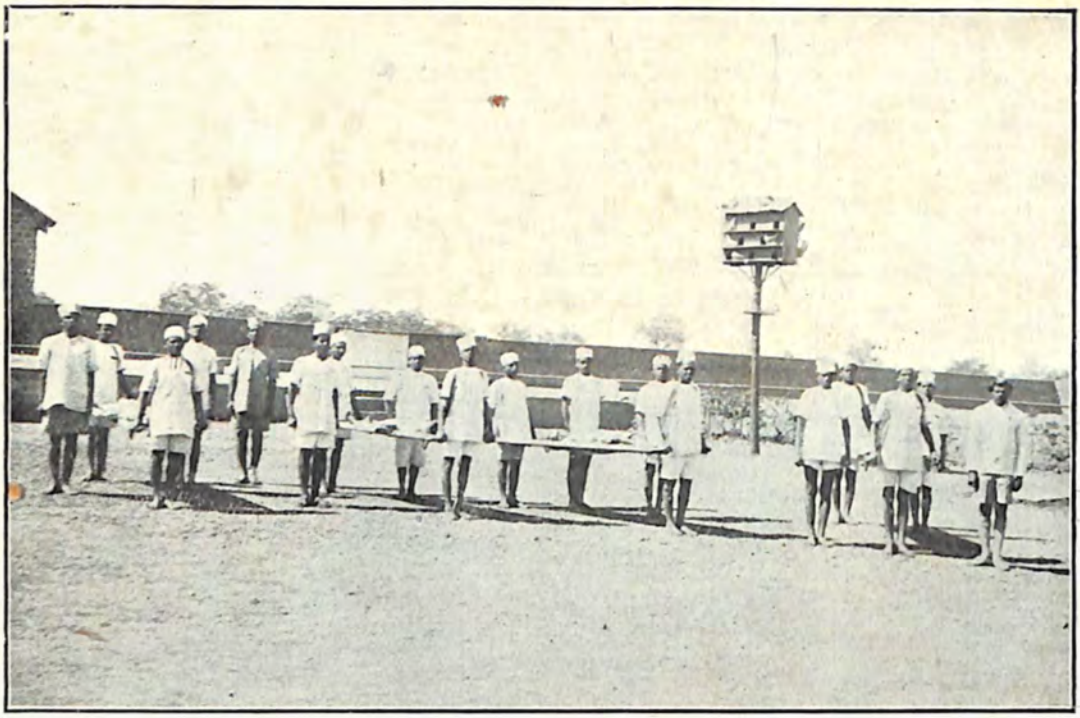
(Signed) BRABOURNE,
Governor of Bombay.

27th October 1934.

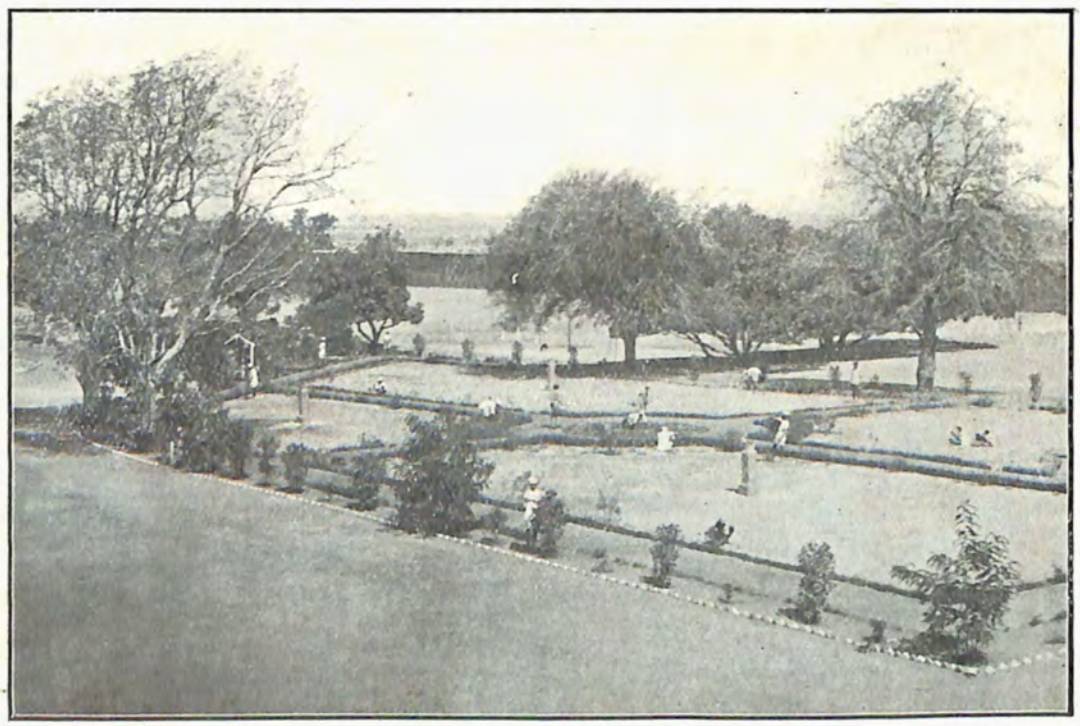
A " HOUSE " GARDEN.



" SCOUTS ".

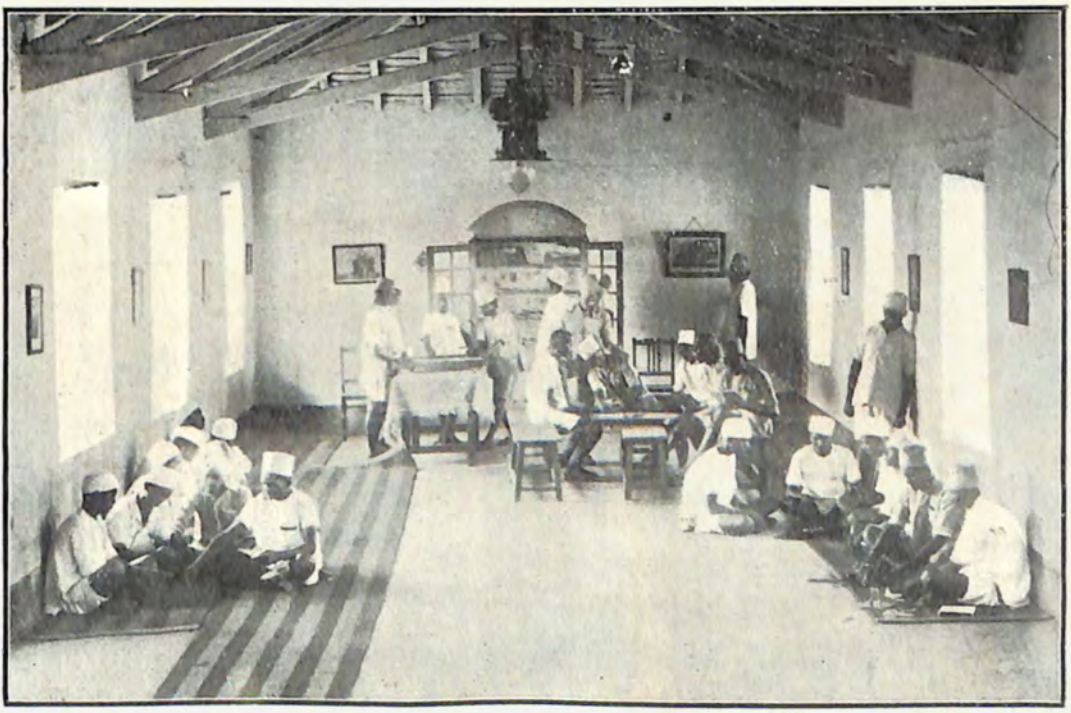


STRETCHER SQUADS.

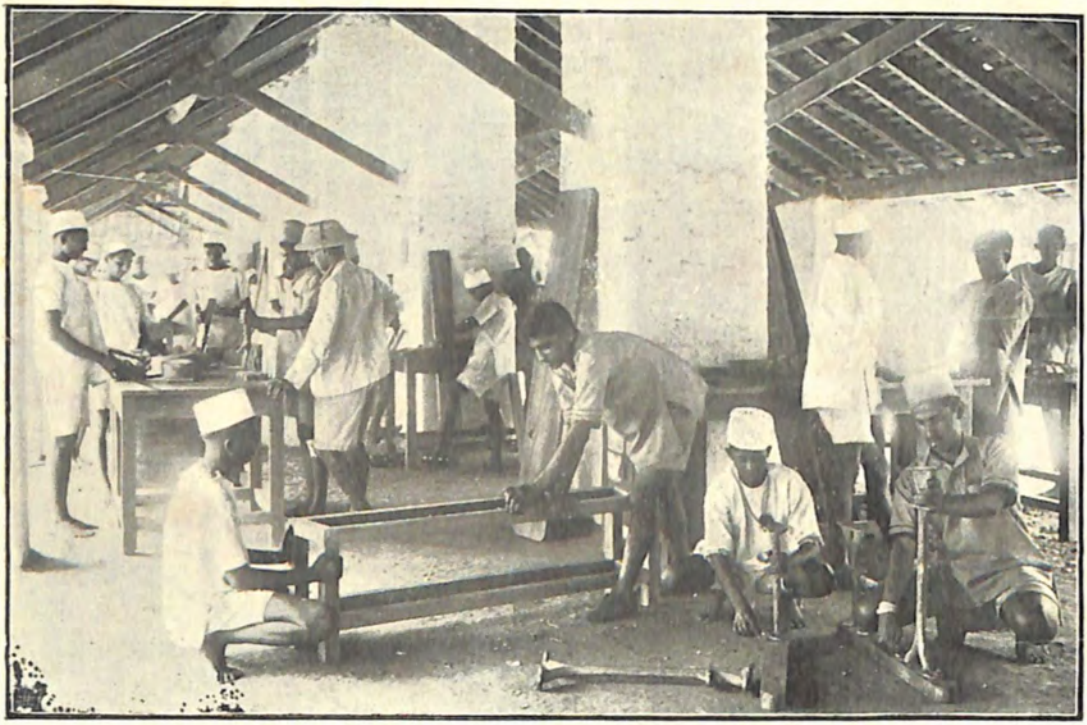


THE HOSPITAL GARDEN.

POLISHERS AT WORK.



INDOOR GAMES IN THE " CLUB ".



A SECTION OF THE CARPENTERS' SHOP.

No. B.I.-8 of 1935.

From

D. SYMINGTON, Esquire, I.C.S.,

Secretary and Treasurer,

Bombay Presidency Borstal Association,

Poona ;

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

Home Department, Bombay.

Poona, 5th June 1935.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the report for the year ending 31st March 1935 on the working of the Bombay Presidency Borstal Association.

2. Mr. O. H. B. Starte, C.B.E., I.C.S., was Secretary and Treasurer until April 18th, 1934. I was Secretary and Treasurer for the remainder of the year.

Membership.

3. The total number of members of the Association is 38 including 7 Life members.

The Managing Committee consists of 10 members, 6 of whom are officials, viz. :—

(1) The District Magistrate, Dharwar (Chairman).

(2) The Backward Class Officer (Secretary and Treasurer).

(3) The District Judge, Dharwar.

(4) The Medical Officer, Borstal School, Dharwar.

(5) The Educational Inspector, Southern Division, Dharwar.

(6) The Governor, Borstal School, Dharwar.

The non-official members of the Committee consist of the following gentlemen, viz. :—

(1) The Rev. A. L. Bradbury, Manager, Industrial Settlement, Hubli.

(2) Khan Saheb M. M. Karaka, Dharwar.

(3) B. S. Sowkar, Esquire, B.A., LL.B., Government Pleader, Dharwar.

(4) S. R. Shashital, Esquire, Dharwar.

Meetings.

4. The Annual General meeting was held on the 6th June 1934. In this meeting the non-official members of the Managing Committee were re-elected, the report of the working of the Association up to 31st May 1934 was read and adopted and the accounts which had been previously audited by the Honorary Auditor, Mr. M. M. Jamadar, B.A., LL.B., were passed.

At this meeting a resolution was passed extending the objects of the Association so as to include the supervision of juveniles under the Children Act. This resolution will have an important effect on the future working of the Association, which will now be formally linked with the coming developments in the protection and treatment of children.

Both official and non-official members of the Managing Committee of the Borstal Association have shown interest in the work and have attended all the meetings, with very few exceptions. In addition to the work at the meetings the members of the Committee each share in the work of interviewing the lads preparatory to their cases being discussed. The practice of holding joint meetings of the Managing Committee of the Borstal Association and the Visiting Committee of the Borstal School, the members of both the Committees being identical, except for two non-official members, still continues as it works smoothly and has ensured uniformity of policy.

Finance.

5. The Association's financial position on 31st March 1935 was as follows :—

Receipts.

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Cash in hand on 1st April 1934	110	15	0
(2) Cash in Bank on 1st April 1934	704	7	0
(3) Donations (received in response to the appeal made on behalf of the Association by the Honourable the Home Member) ..	2,579	13	3
(4) Annual subscriptions from members of the Association and annual contribution from the District After-Care Associations ..	200	0	0
(5) Interest on deposits and G. P. Notes ..	110	0	10
(6) Miscellaneous receipts	2	6	0
(7) Government grant-in-aid for the year 1934-35 ..	1,500	0	0
	5,207	10	1

Expenditure.

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1) Clothing given to Borstal lads	390	8	6
(2) Food charges, motor and railway charges to lads released on license	6	2	0
(3) Postal stamps	63	6	6
(4) Printing, stationery and purchase of books ..	92	12	9
(5) Supervision charges of lads released on license and kept in the Salvation Army Home, Bombay	344	8	0
(6) Share of Bombay, Dharwar and Sholapur Probation Officer's pay	1,053	15	9
(7) Miscellaneous expenses	46	15	0
(8) Donations invested in G. P. Notes	2,340	15	7
	4,339	4	1
Cash in hand on 31st March 1935	168	6	0
Cash in Bank on 31st March 1935	700	0	0
	5,207	10	1

The Association now has a total of Rs. 2,340–15–7 invested in Government Promissory Notes. Rs. 353–5–3 remain to be invested out of donations received ; it will be invested when a suitable opportunity occurs.

Working.

6. There were 61 lads on license on April 1st, 1934. 113 more lads were released on license to the Association during the year under report, making a total of 174 dealt with during the year. 72 lads completed their license period satisfactorily during the year and 23 had their licenses revoked for breach of conditions. 79 lads remained on license on March 31st, 1935. 12 license-revoked lads were still at large at the opening of the year. Out of these 1 was caught and sent back to the Borstal School. 23 licenses were revoked during the year under report, 20 for absconding from supervision, and 3 as a result of further offences. Out of these 15 were brought back to the Borstal School and 8 were at large at the end of the year. (1 has been caught subsequently.)

7. Last year we reported (*a*) 112 releases on license, (*b*) 69 final discharges and (*c*) 8 license-revokes. The percentage of (*c*) to (*b*) was 11·6 and of (*c*) to (*a*) 7·2. This year there have been (*a*) 113 releases, (*b*) 72 final discharges and (*c*) 23 license-revokes. The percentage of (*c*) to (*b*) is 32 and of (*c*) to (*a*) 20·4.

It will be seen that the number of licenses revoked, and the proportion they bear to the total, have been roughly trebled. In last year's report I expressed the opinion that the numbers of licenses revoked gave an unduly optimistic picture of the true facts. During the year under report there has been a steady insistence on the necessity for strict supervision

and revocation of license has been applied for in every case as soon as its necessity became apparent. Slack supervision on license is worse than useless, and therefore in my opinion the increase in the number of licenses revoked is a matter for satisfaction, as being symptomatic of a more efficient working of the system. In England roughly 35 per cent. of lads have their licenses revoked so there is not the least cause for despondency over the increase now reported; in fact, as has been remarked above, rather the reverse.

8. There is need of some machinery for the consideration of the cases of license-revoked boys before they are sent back to Borstal, such as exists in England. This is required since in some cases some form of treatment other than recall to Borstal is indicated. It is understood that Government now have some such proposals under consideration, and it is hoped that the idea will fructify.

9. The following is an analysis of the disposal while on license of the 113 lads released during the year 1934-35. 101 lads were released to various places in the Presidency. Out of these 28 went to Bombay City, and 18 to Dharwar District. No other district received more than 9. 8 lads were released to other provinces (5 to the United Provinces, 2 to the Punjab and 1 to Madras). 4 lads were released to Indian States. Out of the 113, 39 were committed to the supervision of non-official gentlemen who kindly gave their services voluntarily. 29 cases went to district officials, including village headmen; 10 to Managers of Criminal Tribes Settlements run by voluntary agencies; 20 to the stipendiary probation officer, Bombay (Mr. T. L. Deshpande), 8 to the Salvation Army Home, Bombay, and 5 and 2 respectively to the salaried probation officers of the Dharwar and Sholapur Associations.

10. A very satisfactory feature of the year's working has been the improvement in the settling down of such lads as necessarily have to be released to Bombay. This number is kept down to the minimum by the visiting Committee; but nevertheless forms a very substantial proportion of the whole. Out of 20 lads at the moment on license under the paid probation officer in Bombay 15 are in steady work, and the remaining 5 are on casual work.

11. During the year under report the District Magistrate, Satara, alone started a Sub-Committee of the Association for his district. The number of District Associations or Sub-Committees now stands at 10, viz. Belgaum, Dharwar, Hyderabad, Poona, Sholapur, Thana, Sukkur Surat, Satara and Thar Parkar.

The need for their formation in all districts still exists, and will be further emphasized when work in connection with the Children Act commences, as it shortly will, throughout the Presidency.

Final.

12. The Association takes this opportunity of expressing its sincere gratitude to all those who have served as probation officers during the year under report thus rendering a social service of the highest quality to

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the community. Among them I would particularly like to mention the names of Mr. D. N. Tilak of Nasik and Khan Bahadur K. S. Irani of Ahmednagar, as deserving the special thanks of the Association and of Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) D. SYMINGTON,

Secretary and Treasurer,

Bombay Presidency Borstal Association,

Poona.

BOMBAY : PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS.